

**From:** Mike Morris  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I have been involved in the computer industry in one way or the other for nearly thirty years and would like to comment on the proposed DOJ-Microsoft anti-trust settlement.

The whole purpose of anti-trust laws is to ensure competition and innovation so that like natural selection inferior products will die out and superior ones will thrive. I have observed with disbelief over the past ten years or so how the most inferior operating system (OS) that I have ever dealt with as a software developer has gained such a market share. When I tell friends that on most OS's computers do not "crash" or "lock-up" they do not believe me because they have not been exposed to alternative OS's (UNIX, LINUX, etc.) Granted that most of Windows initial success was due to its ease of use as opposed to other OS's this is certainly no longer the case and I fear that consumers will never get the chance to find something better if the proposed settlement is allowed to go forward. It is absolutely imperative that Microsoft allow all third party developers access to the Windows source code in order to create cross-platform alternatives to their software products and to allow direct competition with their own software products (Office, etc.) Microsoft should also be compelled to continue to support the JAVA platform since there is so much JAVA content currently on the internet. Failure to do so unfairly denies consumers the use of that content and is an attempt by Microsoft to stymie the JAVA juggernaut which is in direct opposition and competition to their own .NET platform.

Finally I would like to comment that I feel the only reason this settlement proposal came about in the first place was due to "economic expedience." Following the September 11 attacks I think the DOJ felt it in the best short-term interest of the country to soften their position and cave in to Microsoft who from all accounts had been intransigent in previous settlement negotiations. Opposed to popular opinion, the computer industry will not collapse if Microsoft justly loses market share to its competitors. Please do the right thing and protect the millions of consumers who currently have no idea that there is something better out there.

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